

# The Whole Counsel



**“For I did not shrink back from declaring to you the whole counsel of God” ~ Acts 20:27**

## Salvation

(Article 8, The Confession of Faith of the Evangelical United Brethren Church)

We believe God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself. The offering Christ freely made on the cross is the perfect and sufficient sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, redeeming humanity from all sin, so that no other satisfaction is required.

### **Jesus and Zacchaeus - A Story of Salvation** **Luke 19:1-10**

**1** He entered Jericho and was passing through it. **2** A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. **3** He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. **4** So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. **5** When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, hurry and come down; for I must stay at your house today.” **6** So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. **7** All who saw it began to grumble and said, “He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner.” **8** Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, “Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor; and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much.” **9** Then Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because he too is a son of Abraham. **10** For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost.”

## OBSERVATIONS

- ◆ **Jesus knows us all by name.**
- ◆ **True repentance requires a change of living.**
- ◆ **We can indeed have the assurance of salvation.**
- ◆ **Jesus has come to seek and save the lost, which is good news for everyone.**

## Further Study *for a deeper understanding*

The following daily readings are available online.

Sunday	The Author of Salvation	Hebrews 12
Monday	Saved by Grace	Ephesians 2:1-10
Tuesday	New Creations in Christ	2 Corinthians 5:11-21
Wednesday	The Way of Righteousness	Romans 3:21-26
Thursday	Jesus Our Advocate	1 John 1:9-2:6
Friday	The Greatness of Knowing Christ	Philippians 3:7-11
Saturday	Jesus at the Door	Revelation 3:20

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## APPLICATION *for Daily Living*

### Repentance

Jesus Christ has come not only to save us, but to lead us into a new life. Repentance is a turning from one way of living to another. It is more than merely an emotional response to our sin, it is a determination to live by the power of God to overcome sin.

The good news is that Jesus does not wish to condemn sinners. Instead, he has come to seek and save the lost. We can rest assured that whenever we turn to Jesus for forgiveness, he will not only offer his grace, but lead us into newness of life.

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## QUESTIONS *for discussion*

**How does it feel to know that Jesus knows you by name?**

**To what degree do you have the assurance of salvation?**

**What new and healthy habits do you want to adopt?**